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A NEW SPECIES OF *LIPARIS* RICHARD (ORCHIDACEAE) FROM SIKKIM<sup>1</sup>S. Z. LUCKSOM<sup>2</sup>

In my recent orchid survey in Bhusuk valley of Sikkim, I could collect many interesting orchids. A new species of *Liparis* Hook. f, collected during the exploration, is described.

*Liparis lydiaii* sp. nov.

*Liparis platyrachis* Hook. f., affinis, sed differt pseudobulbo 1-2 cm longus, coepitosus, ovaideo-cylindricus. Folia 4, graciliter membranacea, alterna, ovato-oblonga, 1-2.7 cm x 0.4 - 0.9 cm, ad marginem integra, ad superficies undulata. Inflorescentia 8-11.5 cm, terminalibus, subpendula, pedunculus 0.8-2.5 cm longus, gracilis, teretus, erectus, cum 2-3 bracteolis, cordatis, basi amplexicaulibus, 5-6 x 2-3 mm, racemus 8-9 cm longus, teretus, cum 4-14 floribus. Sepalum dorsale sepalis lateralibus majus, 3.6-4 x 2.6-3 mm, cordato-retroflexum. Labellum 2-2.5 x 0.8-1 mm, cordatum, ad medium parvum deflexum.

*Liparis lydiaii* sp. nov.

Epiphytic. Pseudobulb 1-2 cm long, tufted, ovoid-cylindric, sheathed, 3.5-6 mm diam., broader at the base and slightly tapering towards the apex. Leaves 4, 1-2.7 x 0.4-0.9 cm, thinly membranous, alternate, ovato-oblong, undulating leaf surface, margin entire. Inflorescence 8-11.5 cm, sub-pendulous. Peduncle 0.8-2.5 cm long, slender, terete, erect with 2-3 cordate amplexicaul base bracteoles 5-6 x 2-3 mm; the raceme 8-9 cm long, terete, with 4-14 flowers.

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Flowers light greenish-pink, 7-8 mm long. Pedicel 4-4.5 mm long; the floral bracts small, cordate with amplexicaul base. Sepals 3, subequal, brownish-pink; the dorsal sepal 3.6-4 x 2-3 mm, broader than lateral sepals, cordate, retroflexed; the lateral sepals 5.2 -5.7 x 0.9 - 1.1 mm, spreading, oblong, obtuse, margin recurved. Petals 2, 2.9-3.1 x 0.09-0.1 mm, oblong, obtuse, translucent, whitish-pink, margin recurved. Labellum 2-2.5 x 0.8-1 mm, cordate, slightly deflexed at the middle, hypochile with 4 calli. Column about 3 mm long, winged, 2-lobed. Anther ovate, dorsally dome-shaped, about 0.5 mm long. Pollinia 2, about 0.4 mm long, translucent, orange yellow, clavate-oblong.

**Type:** INDIA: Sikkim, Bhusuk valley, 10 October 1990. Lucksom (Lucksom 198a Holotype: Gangtok, Forest Department Herb). Isotypes (198b, Gangtok, Forest Department Herb).

**Etymology:** It is named in memory of my late mother who was a great source of inspiration for the study of this important group of plants.

**Flowers and fruits:** October - November.

**Altitude:** 900 m -1200 m.

**Ecology:** This species grows on the branches of arched shrubs in moist and shady places.

The fresh specimens had light greenish-pink flowers on sub-pendulous peduncle. Leaves coriaceous, or sub-coriaceous, jointed at the pseudobulb or sheath. These characters are of section *Coriifoliae* Rich. of the genus *Liparis*.

The new species is closely allied to *Liparis*

TABLE 1  
DIFFERENCES BETWEEN *Liparis lydiaii* SP. NOV. AND *L. platyrachis*

|               | <i>L. platyrachis</i> Hook. f.  | <i>L. lydiaii</i>   |
|---------------|---|---|
| Pseudo-bulb   | Oblong, compressed, 1.25 cm long.   | Ovoid-cylindric, 1-2 cm long, 3.5-6 mm diam.  |
| Leaf          | 3-5, linear-lanceolate, thickly membranous, 1.5-3 cm long and 0.3-0.5 cm broad. | 4, ovato-oblong, thinly membranous with undulating surface, 1-2.7 cm long and 0.4-0.9 cm broad. |
| Inflorescence | Pendulous, interruptedly winged and with short linear bracteoles.               | Sub-pendulous, terete, with 2-3 cordate amplexicaul bracteoles.                                 |
| Flowers       | 0.63 cm long and 0.25 cm broad, pale ochraceous yellow.                         | 0.7-0.8 cm long, greenish pink.   |
| Sepals        | Dorsal sepal narrower than the lateral sepals, with margin recurved.            | Dorsal sepal, cordate, much broader than lateral sepals, margin slightly recurved.              |
| Lip           | Quadrate.   | Cordate.  |

*platyrachis* Hook.f. of the above mentioned section but differs as shown in Table 1.

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## *COPIDOGNATHUS KRANTZI*, A NEW SPECIES OF HALACARIDAE (ACARI) FROM NICOBAR ISLANDS (INDIAN OCEAN)<sup>1</sup>

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(With ten text-figures)

*Copidognathus krantzi*, a new species of Halacaridae, is described here, collected among the phytal sediments of Mus Island (Nicobar islands). Similarity and dissimilarity with related species are discussed.

#### INTRODUCTION

Halacarids are the least known meiofaunal taxa of marine biota in general and particularly so of Indian seas. Halacarids form about 90% of the phytal faunal communities in the upper shore (Bartsch 1988). No meaningful ecological researches can be contemplated without information on taxonomy, zoogeography and biodiversity. Therefore survey of the fauna of

halacarids inhabiting the phytal realm was undertaken by the author, resulting in a rich and diverse halacarid collection along the Indian coast. Of these, many turned out to be new species and new records. The present paper describes *Copidognathus krantzi*.

*Copidognathus krantzi* sp. nov.<sup>3</sup>

**Diagnosis:** Posterior areolae of antero-dorsal plate inverted-U shaped, ocular plate caudiform posteriorly, postero-dorsal plate with two costae, all ventral plates separate, epimeral process I well developed and coxal in origin, tibiae I and II with 3 ventral setae.

**Locality:** Three females were collected

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<sup>3</sup> Named after Prof. G.W. Krantz, a world famous acarologist.